AI PROMPTS

AI writing prompts are commands the user enters into the AI writing assistant prompt box to request a task.

AI writing prompts can be as short or as long as necessary. They can be more than one sentence but should not have more than one message - every new message is treated as an independent query.

Prompts should include all the details of what you need, such as the length or writing style of the generated text.

Prompts are not as difficult as they sound; most AI is designed to understand casual language, so if you write normally when you request something in the prompt box, the AI will usually understand.

METHODS TO GET THE BEST AI PROMPTS:

1 "Create a . . ."

"Create a . . ." followed by a type of document is among the most useful and most popular prompts, along with "Write a . . . ," an equally viable alternative. Simply type "Create a" and then add whatever AI writing tasks you need (e.g., "Create a birthday card poem using butterflies as a theme" or "Create a descriptive paragraph about image restoration").

2 "Act as a . . ."

Many AI writing assistants can imitate different professions and mind sets, such as those of a marketer, lawyer, or even therapist. This can be a big help for specific tasks; for example, if you want it to generate an ad, you'll get better results if you type "Act as an advertiser . . ." before the rest of the prompt. You can even use this to have a little fun, such as by asking the AI to "act as a cranky person."

3 "Complete this sentence . . ."

If asking open-ended questions isn't getting you the results you want, you can steer the direction better using the "Complete this sentence . . ." template. This works great to focus the AI when broad questions don't give you a satisfactory answer. Additionally, you can use this prompt directly for writing if you're having trouble coming up with a conclusion to a sentence.

4 "Mimic this style . . ."

AI writing assistants have a pretty neutral writing style, but what if you want something passionate, excessively formal, or child-friendly? Using the "Mimic this style . . ." prompt, you can paste a sample text from the style you want, and the AI will compose whatever you want in that style. You can even use your own writing to have the AI generate text in your own personal style.

5 "Give me examples of . . ."

Asking AI to give you some examples is useful both in writing and education. For writing, sometimes it can be difficult to think up good examples, even if you understand a topic well. You can save time by asking AI to create a list of examples for you and use them as a springboard for your own writing. Likewise, if you don't understand a topic, you can request some examples from an AI to illustrate its meaning. For example, you can write, "Give me examples of iambic pentameter."

7 "Show this as a . . ."

If you present some AI writing assistants with raw data, they can convert it into rudimentary graphs and charts for you. Don't expect anything too complex—what AI can create is usually limited to text, which isn't ideal for visuals. However, it can give you a rough draft that you can use to build a better-looking model. Just say something like, "Show me this data as a graph."

8 "Write a list of . . ."

AI technology is still developing, so there's a lot it can't yet do consistently. Because of this, sometimes it's best to request multiple options and then choose the best one. Simply ask the AI to generate a list of whatever you need; for example: "Write a list of blog titles for an article about email replies."

9 "Compare . . ."

Compare-and-contrast essays are fairly common assignments in school, and the skill of recognizing similarities and differences often comes in handy in life, too. To help you get a sense of comparisons, you can ask an AI to compare two things for you. Most AI programs will then list what's the same and what's different between them, pointing out some areas that you may have initially overlooked.

9 "Tell me about . . ." or "Explain . . ."

Last but not least, with the entirety of the internet as their reference point, AI assistants can make great teachers. Simply ask one to tell you about or explain something, and it will usually respond with a clear and reasonable answer. Just be careful: There's a lot of misinformation on the internet, so AI may cite incorrect sources and give you false information. If you're still having trouble understanding something, ask the AI assistant to explain it to you "like a child." The AI will then use even simpler language and sometimes cute analogies.

BASIC STRUCTURE OF A PROMPT

- Describe the setting (e.g. Mary is my sister, I need to write a greeting for her birthday, she enjoys sailing and yoga, she will be 35 years old on Saturday 11th May…)
- Describe what you want (e.g. create a poem, write an invitation …)
- Set the parameters (e.g. write 300-words, write in the 3rd person, do not use complex words, write it for a 6-year-old, use bullet points, summarise, …)

3 TIPS ON HOW TO WRITE EFFECTIVE PROMPTS FOR CHATGPT AND OTHER AI

1 Give details about what you need

AI writing is only as good as your request. Don't be scared to enter as many details as you need—AI assistants can handle a lot. In fact, the more details you enter, the more you can influence precisely what the AI creates.

Specifically, when asking AI to compose something for you, make sure you provide this information:

- Length (e.g., a word count or the number of pages)
- Tone or style (e.g. moody, enthusiastically, in the style of Enid Blyton, …)
- Exceptions or aspects you want to disregard (e.g. do not use flowery language, …)
- Person (e.g. in the 3rd person, in the 1st person …)

Remember, prompts can be as long as you need if it's all in the same query. You can write multiple paragraphs of instructions if you want, and the results will be that much closer to what you envision.

2 Combine multiple prompts

The AI writing prompt examples we listed above aren't necessarily meant to stand alone. You can mix and match them however you want to optimize the results. For example, you can say, "Acting as a historian, tell me about Malala Yousafzai." This would elicit more historical insight into her life, such as her lasting impact and reception by society, than the less detailed prompt "Tell me about Malala Yousafzai."

3 Rephrase and try again

Because each interaction is unique, you can simply reword your prompt and enter it again if the first attempt didn't go well. This makes it easy to generate new responses until you find one you like. Try adding new information or using different keywords if a series of answers is too similar.